



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Fifth District

June 17, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES: APPROVAL OF  
WEED ABATEMENT CONTRACTS FOR TRACTOR AND HAND REMOVAL OF WEEDS,  
BRUSH, AND POISON OAK FOR THE WEED HAZARD AND PEST MANAGEMENT  
BUREAU – FISCAL YEAR 2008-09  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department (ACWM) provides essential fire prevention and rubbish removal services throughout most of Los Angeles County. A significant amount of the work is performed by vendors providing weed abatement services with hand crews, tractors and specialized power equipment. ACWM is recommending that the Board award contracts to the vendors listed below.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Award and authorize the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to sign contracts with Al Thorne's Discing Service, Inc., Gardner Tractor Service, Javadi Farm Labor, Inc., Oakridge Landscape, Inc., Pestmaster Services, Inc., Ray Byers and Co., and SR Landscape for the total amount of \$1,056,534 at no County cost. The contracts are effective commencing July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, with two (2) one-year renewal options and six (6) month-to-month extensions.

2. Authorize the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to amend the contracts, if necessary, in an amount not to exceed 15 percent of the original, individual 2008-09 contract amounts, at no County cost, subject to review and approval by County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office and notification to Board offices.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The purpose of the above action is to enable the ACWM, Weed Hazard Abatement Division to continue providing essential fire prevention and rubbish removal services throughout the unincorporated areas of the County and contract cities.

The success of the Weed Abatement Program depends on the timely abatement of hazardous fire conditions. An integral part of the annual program is the use of hand crews, tractors and specialized power equipment which are furnished under contract by private vendors. For many years, your Board has approved similar contracts for the ACWM's Weed Abatement Program.

**Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This action supports the County's Strategic Plan Goals of:

- Goal 1 (Service Excellence): The use of vendors allows ACWM to effectively respond to the highly seasonal workload inherent in hazardous weed, brush, and rubbish removal.
- Goal 3 (Organizational Effectiveness): The assistance provided by vendors for certain routine weed, brush, and rubbish clearing operations frees ACWM personnel to effectively respond to more challenging situations.
- Goal 6 (Community Services): The timely removal of hazardous weeds, brush, and rubbish improves the quality of life for the residents of Los Angeles County's unincorporated communities.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

There is no net County cost. The cost of the program is 100 percent recoverable through property tax liens and direct charges.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Unusual or unanticipated weather conditions and accompanying weed growth may require increased vendor utilization. Therefore, we request that your Board delegate authority to the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to make amendments to the contracts not to exceed 15 percent of the original, individual 2008-09 contract amounts. The Department has determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply to the recommended contracts due to the seasonal nature of the weed abatement services.

The contracts have been reviewed by County Counsel and are approved as to form.

**CONTRACTING PROCESS:**

ACWM commenced solicitation for weed abatement services by mailing a notice (Attachment A) to 136 vendors on the current vendor listing (Attachment B). The solicitation was posted in the County of Los Angeles "Doing Business with Us" website (Attachment C). The invitation for bids (IFB) was posted on ACWM's website (Attachment D). Twenty-two (22) vendors submitted bids for 14 separate items in response to this solicitation. Two vendors withdrew bids for mowing and hand work contracts. Al Thorne's Discing Service, Inc. was the sole bidder for the Zone 1 hourly and square foot discing item; and Gardner Tractor Service was the sole bidder for Zone 5 hourly and square foot discing. These sole source bid proposals (Attachment E) and other multiple bids were reviewed by an evaluation committee comprised of three ACWM staff with no current association with the Weed Abatement Program and rated according to qualifications, equipment, and cost. Of the bids received, Al Thorne's Discing Service, Inc., Gardner Tractor Service, Javadi Farm Labor, Inc., Oakridge Landscape, Inc., Pestmaster Services, Inc., Ray Byers and Co., and SR Landscape were rated as the highest-scoring and most cost-effective bidders to perform the weed abatement services.

Data regarding the bidders' minority participation is on file with ACWM. Upon final analysis and consideration for the awards, bidders were selected without regard to race, gender, creed, or color.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):**

The recommended Board action will support the current level of program services for fiscal year 2008-09, with two (2) one-year renewal options and six (6) month-to-month extensions.

**CONCLUSION**

When approved, please return one (1) adopted copy of this letter and the original contracts to ACWM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. T. Fujioka', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:SRH:RDC  
KEF:RKI:RBS:cm/yjf

Attachments (7)

c: Maya Lee, County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller